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General Assembly

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Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations
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Draft report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on the 2012 substantive session

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohamed Sarwat **Selim** (Egypt)

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 65/310, the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/65/19), decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field, and requested the Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations held its 2012 session at United Nations Headquarters from 21 February to 16 March 2012 and held five formal meetings.

3. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. At the 222nd (opening) meeting, on 21 February, the Acting President of the General Assembly, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support made statements.

4. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support provided support to the Committee on substantive issues, while the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as the technical secretariat of the Committee.

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B. Election of officers

5. At its 222nd meeting, the Committee elected its officers by acclamation, as follows:

Chair:
Mrs. U. Joy Ogwu (Nigeria)

Vice-Chairs:
Mr. Mateo Estreme (Argentina)
Mr. Gilles Rivard (Canada)
Mr. Kazutoshi Aikawa (Japan)
Mr. Zbigniew Szlek (Poland)

Rapporteur:
Mr. Mohamed Sarwat Selim (Egypt)

C. Agenda

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda (A/AC.121/2012/L.1), which read:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. General debate.
6. Consideration of the draft report by the Working Group of the Whole.
7. Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.
8. Other matters.

7. The Committee also approved its draft programme of work (A/AC.121/2012/L.2).

D. Organization of work

8. At its 222nd meeting, on 21 February, the Committee decided to establish a working group of the whole, to be chaired by Gilles Rivard (Canada), to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted a draft decision on the working methods of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.121/2012/L.3), as orally revised (see annex I).

10. The composition of the Committee at its 2012 session is contained in annex II to the present report. The list of documents for the session is contained in A/AC.121/2012/INF/2, and the list of participants at the session is contained in A/AC.121/2012/INF/4.

E. Proceedings of the Committee

11. At its 222nd to 225th meetings, on 21 and 22 February, the Committee held a general debate on a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. Statements were made by the representatives of Egypt (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), the European Union (also on behalf of Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine, which aligned themselves with the statement), Chile (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), New Zealand (on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand), Thailand (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); as well as by the observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

12. From 23 to 24 February, briefings were presented to the Working Group of the Whole on the following topics: operational issues; civilian capacities; heads of police components; peacebuilding partners; and gender and peacekeeping.

13. The Working Group of the Whole and its seven sub-working groups met from 5 to 16 March, and concluded their work on draft recommendations.

III. Consideration of the draft report of the Working Group

14. At its 226th meeting, on 16 March, the Committee considered the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole and decided to include its recommendations in the current report (see paras. 16-) for consideration by the General Assembly.

IV. Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session

15. At its 226th meeting, the Committee adopted its draft report to the General Assembly as introduced by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

V. Proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Committee

16. [to be inserted]

Annex I

Decision on working methods of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group of the Whole

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, recalling paragraph 277 of the report on its 2011 session (A/65/19) and underlining the desirability to enhance its working methods, in particular those of its Working Group of the Whole:

(a) Decides to implement the following changes to its working methods, with effect from its 2012 session:

(i) In order to reduce the amount of text to be negotiated during the annual session, standardized paragraphs of the chapter of the report of the Special Committee entitled "Proposals, recommendations and conclusions" that do not change from year to year will be identified and agreed ad referendum in advance of the negotiating part of the session by the negotiating partners, in coordination with the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole;

(ii) The negotiating partners, in coordination with the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole, are encouraged to streamline similar inputs to the draft chapter entitled "Proposals, recommendations and conclusions", with a view to submitting a single version to the Working Group of the Whole. In this regard, the Chair of the Working Group will aim to present a streamlined first draft of the chapter for the negotiations. For reference, an unedited comprehensive first draft, showing all inputs received, will also be made available to the Working Group of the Whole;

(iii) As a rule, the number of subsidiary working groups established to negotiate the draft chapter entitled "Proposals, recommendations and conclusions" should not exceed eight. In order to allow delegations to plan their participation, the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole is encouraged to disseminate the list of subsidiary working groups and their programmes of work as early as possible during the session;

(iv) Within each section of the chapter entitled "Proposals, recommendations and conclusions", the non-operative paragraphs will be separated from the recommendations made and briefings requested. Requests for briefings and recommendations will also clearly identify the actors at which the requests and recommendations are aimed;

(b) Also decides to keep its working methods under review, with a view to formulating further recommendations, as appropriate;

(c) Further decides that the present decision will be included as an annex to the report of the Special Committee on its 2012 session.

Annex II

Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

Members: The Special Committee currently consists of the following 147 members: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observers: Brunei Darussalam, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Liberia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Holy See, African Union, European Union, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Criminal Police Organization, International Organization of la Francophonie, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Sovereign Military Order of Malta.